



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 06/28/2021

Project Title: State Forest Acquisition, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest - Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$1,255,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 3(d)

Appropriation Language: \$1,255,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire in fee and enhance lands for wildlife habitat in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jeff Busse

Title: Forestry Lands Program Consultant

Organization: MN DNR Forestry

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Location Information

County Location(s): Winona, Olmsted, Wabasha, Houston, Goodhue and Fillmore.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Narrative

Abstract

This project will protect and restore critical habitat in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest. Protection will focus on key in-holdings within larger blocks of state forest land providing uninterrupted habitat corridors of public land between larger blocks of state forest land. This will also restore critical fish and wildlife habitat through targeted forest management to enhance early successional habitat, riparian areas, terrestrial invasive species control, oak savanna and mixed deciduous forests. The project will also provide additional opportunities for hunting in an area of the state where public hunting opportunities are limited.

Design and Scope of Work

This proposal will directly protect and provide public hunting opportunities to approximately 300 additional acres of critical forestland habitat and provide connective corridors to State Forest (SF) through fee acquisition. The strategy is to acquire parcels that will reduce owner fragmentation across the landscape. Parcels have been identified in area land asset management plans and fall into three classifications; those providing protection of a critical forest habitat, those consolidating fragmented forest habitat, and those providing permanent connectivity to state land for habitat management. This proposal continues the work of acquiring key land parcels from willing sellers.

The forested parcels provide critical habitat for deer, turkey, many migratory birds and flora and fauna of special concern. These acquisitions will protect the declining forest base from fragmentation due to development and will also provide opportunities to further restore habitat for as well as provide additional public hunting opportunities with the region.

Steps will be taken to enhance 130 acres early successional habitat, riparian areas, terrestrial invasive species control, oak savanna and mixed deciduous forests.

This project includes all of the following activities: initial site reviews, negotiations with sellers, appraisals, environmental reviews and acquisition of fee title.

All land will be open for public hunting and fishing

Enhancement work and invasive control activities will be coordinated through the MNDNR silviculture and invasive species programs.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

In the southeast, the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwoods State Forest (RJ Dorer) is a unique forest biome of rolling hills, goat prairie, and river bottom forest. This forest provides habitat to deer, turkey, rattlesnakes, trout, many migratory birds and flora and fauna of special concern. The parcels to be acquired will provide connections with streams and rivers, consolidate fragmented forestland, and provide connective corridors to large areas of currently inaccessible state land. As private land in-holdings become available in the northern forests, acquisition of these lands will restore historical large blocks of forested habitat which will protect the declining forest base from fragmentation. Therefore, this will reduce development within the forests and provide opportunities to further enhance habitat for fish, game and other wildlife.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

The planning model used for parcel selection is based on three metrics: acres of critical habitat protected, miles of boundary reduced and acres of existing state land accessed. Parcels of land with willing sellers that meet one or more of these metrics have been selected and prioritized.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

- Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Does this program include leveraged funding?

-

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
FY05	RIM	120000
FY06	Bonding	2500000

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

Lands acquired in this project become part of the Minnesota State Forest system. This project is very sustainable as management costs are reduced by the project through improved access for habitat management and consolidation of existing state forest lands. Funding for management comes from the Forest Management Investment Account of the Natural Resources Fund, funded by timber sales revenue from the existing portions of the state forest.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2023	Natural Resource Fund - FMIA	Manage forests to maximize forest health and wildlife benefits consistent with guidance documentation.	Maintain boundaries	Monitor public use and address any issues.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

Generally local government approval is not required for state forest acquisitions, however, it is the policy of the DNR to notify county boards of all acquisitions for their information and to solicit comments and concerns. However, specific to the RJ Dorer Memorial Hardwood forest, if the property includes more than 10 contiguous acres of class 1,2,3 tillable (slope less than 12%) county approval is required if the state is to retain it. This is addressed in Minnesota Statute 89.022.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?

Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- State Forests

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

No

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

All land acquired for state forest purposes is open for hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

The Minnesota DNR, Division of Forestry.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

These are private lands which are currently only open to the private landowner's personal use. Farm machinery, logging equipment, hiking, personal ATV use. These are currently not open as public trails or roads.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

The Richard J. Dorer State Forest is classified as Limited for motor vehicle use and any lands acquired would come under this classification.

- Highway licensed vehicles are allowed on signed forest roads, unless posted closed.
- Off-highway vehicles, defined as All-terrain vehicles/Off-highway motorcycles (ATVs/ORVs/OHMs), MAY OPERATE on signed roads and trails.
- ATV travel off of signed motor vehicles trails or forest roads is PROHIBITED in the Richard J. Dorer State Forest.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

There may be access trails developed for logging use, but generally, these will not be maintained for long term access.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

MNDNR has a monitoring and reporting plan in place that involves the Divisions of Forestry, Parks and Trails and Enforcement. This includes annual spring (and other wet season) closures, reporting issues and enforcing actions when necessary.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Protect 300 acres of state forest inholdings	June 2022
Enhance 130 acres of substantially intact habitat	June 2023

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2022

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	\$120,000	General Fund	\$120,000
Contracts	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,060,800	-	-	\$1,060,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
Direct Support Services	\$4,200	-	-	\$4,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,255,000	\$120,000	-	\$1,375,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Lands Program Consultant	0.25	4.0	-	\$120,000	General Fund	\$120,000

Amount of Request: \$1,255,000

Amount of Leverage: \$120,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 9.56%

DSS + Personnel: \$4,200

As a % of the total request: 0.33%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

This program will still focus on the most critical habitat lands and willing landowners, but what is protected or enhanced is reduced. We will also not use funding for and additional personnel costs.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

All personnel costs are being covered by other funds.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Yes. 100%

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

Unitizing the DNR's Direct and Necessary Cost Calculator - Additive Model for proposal and Subtractive Model based on funds awarded.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	300	0	300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	130	0	130
Total	0	0	430	0	430

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,155,000	-	\$1,155,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$100,000	-	\$100,000
Total	-	-	\$1,255,000	-	\$1,255,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	300	0	0	300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	130	0	0	130
Total	0	0	430	0	0	430

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,155,000	-	-	\$1,155,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Total	-	-	\$1,255,000	-	-	\$1,255,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$3,850	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$769	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$3,850	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State	-	-	-	-	-

PILT Liability					
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$769	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Forestlands and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes ~ *Forest and savanna habitat are protected from parcelization and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes. Protection from parcelization and fragmentation is measured by the miles of state/private boundary reduced by the acquisition. The goal of this project is a reduction by 7.0 miles. Protected corridors are measured by acres of existing state land made accessible.*

Parcels

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Restore / Enhance Parcels

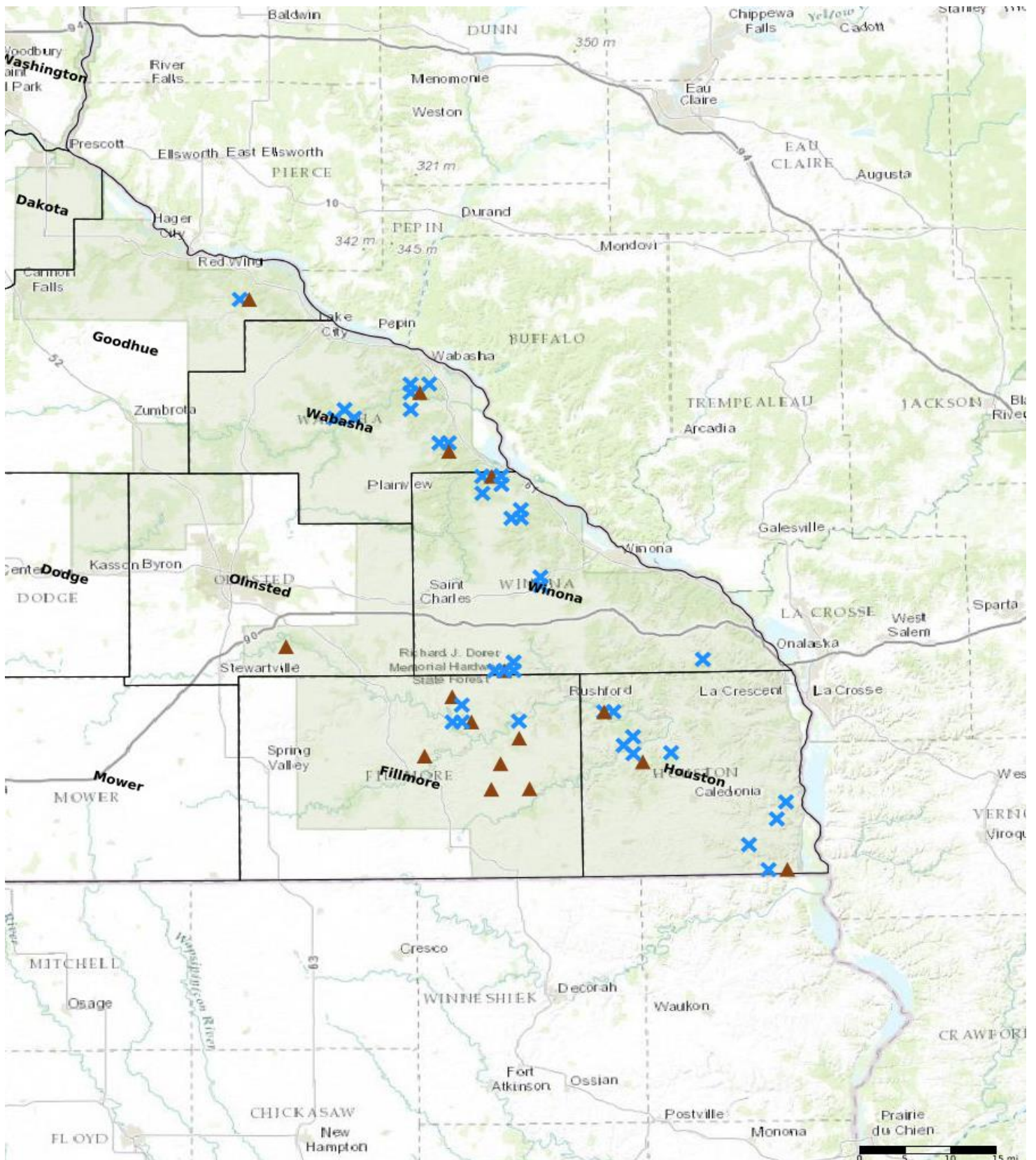
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
RJDorer28	Fillmore	10410224	21	\$15,800	Yes
RJDorer29	Fillmore	10410235	20	\$15,000	Yes
RJDorer16	Fillmore	10409236	10	\$7,500	Yes
RJDorer30	Fillmore	10410236	24	\$18,000	Yes
RJDorer39	Goodhue	11214224	11	\$8,300	Yes
RJDorer9	Houston	10204233	16	\$12,000	Yes
RJDorer6	Houston	10104232	26	\$19,500	Yes
RJDorer10	Houston	10306222	10	\$7,500	Yes
RJDorer11	Houston	10307212	18	\$13,500	Yes
RJDorer13	Houston	10307224	18	\$13,500	Yes
RJDorer12	Houston	10307214	33	\$24,800	Yes
RJDorer7	Houston	10105213	46	\$34,500	Yes
RJDorer8	Houston	10204222	60	\$45,000	Yes
RJDorer15	Houston	10407228	12	\$9,000	Yes
RJDorer14	Houston	10407227	10	\$7,500	Yes
RJDorer33	Wabasha	11011212	24	\$18,000	Yes
RJDorer32	Wabasha	10910216	19	\$14,300	Yes
RJDorer31	Wabasha	10910215	65	\$48,800	Yes
RJDorer35	Wabasha	11011225	75	\$56,300	Yes
RJDorer34	Wabasha	11011213	40	\$30,000	Yes
RJDorer36	Wabasha	11012226	16	\$12,000	Yes
RJDorer38	Wabasha	11012236	18	\$13,500	Yes
RJDorer37	Wabasha	11012234	9	\$6,800	Yes
RJDorer27	Wabasha	11010208	17	\$12,800	Yes
RJDorer20	Winona	10509234	10	\$7,500	Yes
RJDorer21	Winona	10509235	10	\$7,500	Yes
RJDorer24	Winona	10809225	39	\$29,300	Yes
RJDorer3	Winona	10809203	41	\$30,800	Yes
RJDorer25	Winona	10809235	13	\$9,800	Yes
RJDorer26	Winona	10809236	28	\$21,000	Yes
RJDorer22	Winona	10809210	60	\$45,000	Yes
RJDorer18	Winona	10509226	15	\$11,300	Yes
RJDorer17	Winona	10505230	10	\$7,500	Yes
RJDorer23	Winona	10809217	25	\$18,800	Yes
RJDorer1	Winona	10608205	11	\$8,300	Yes
RJDorer4	Winona	10809204	5	\$3,800	Yes
RJDorer5	Winona	10809205	18	\$13,500	Yes
RJDorer2	Winona	10608208	9	\$6,800	Yes
RJDorer19	Winona	10509233	15	\$11,300	Yes

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
RJD-Amherst	Fillmore	10309227	12	\$40,000	No
RJD-Preble 1	Fillmore	10208207	45	\$125,000	No
RJD-Pilotmound 1	Fillmore	10410214	128	\$500,000	No
RJD-Arendahl 1	Fillmore	10409231	34	\$50,000	No
RJD-Holt 2	Fillmore	10309212	43	\$200,000	No
RJD - Jefferson 4	Houston	10104234	60	\$150,000	No
RJD-Money Crk	Houston	10407228	20	\$50,000	No
RJD-Houston 2	Houston	10306230	320	\$1,000,000	No
RJD Pleasant Grove	Olmsted	10513214	43	\$130,000	No
RJD-Watopa 2	Wabasha	10910222	108	\$300,000	No
RJD-Krueger	Wabasha	11010218	93	\$280,000	No
RJD Pine Creek	Winona	10509234	30	\$90,000	No
RJD-Trout Valley 2	Winona	10809204	30	\$90,000	No

Protect Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
RJD-Carrolton	Fillmore	10310220	31	\$189,000	No	1	\$20,000
RJD-Preble 4	Fillmore	10209209	317	\$1,000,000	No	1	\$10,000
RJD-Florence 1	Goodhue	11213219	173	\$750,000	No	1	\$60,000



Parcel Map
State Forest Acquisition, Richard J. Dorer Memorial
Forest - Phase V
(Data Generated From Parcel List)